

Mr. Jeffrey Graziano
263 Worcester Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17111

Mr. Russell A. Strong
5323 Cheval Place
Charlotte, NC 28205-4937

September 19, 1998

Dear Mr. Strong:

I am writing to you to inquire about my father's World War II service history. His name was Joseph R. Graziano (died March 17, 1998) and he served in the 306th Bombardment Group.

From other sources, I know that his plane, piloted by Lt. Maxwell V. Judas, was shot down over Wilhelmshaven Germany on May 21, 1943. I also have the plane number (42-3214) and the names of the crew members.

I have conflicting information about the squadron number. One source has it as the 368th, and another as the 423rd.

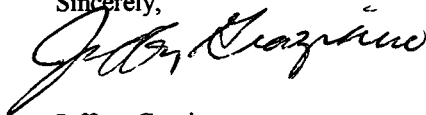
My father was taken as a POW to Stalag VII-A in Mooseburg and then moved to Stalag XVII-B in Krems, Austria. I do not know the applicable dates.

I would appreciate any information you may have. I am looking not only for particulars regarding his military service, but also crew pictures, names of those who may have served with him or knew him, or of experiences that may have been common to his. (Two people who have already been of help to me are Leland Kessler, who was a crew member, and Hal Province, the 34th BG Unit Contact.)

My goal is to compile as complete a picture of his service as possible to pass along to my children.

Thank you in advance for your time.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Graziano

20 December 1998

Jeffrey Graziano
263 Worcester Ave
Harrisburg, PA 17111

Dear Jeffrey:

I tried to call you earlier today concerning your letter of 19 September, but was rebuffed when I got stubborn, too, and refused to undergo questioning before I could get you.

Thank you for sending the date of your father's death. As I had to remove his name from our mailing list, I substituted yours in its place. This means you will receive copies of 306th Echoes, which appears quarterly, and with which you may be familiar through your father.

I am not aware of having any pictures of your father in my collection. He did not come to the 306th as a member of a combat crew, and probably did not have a picture taken while with Judas' crew.

Yoh said in your letter that you had been in contact with Lee Kessler. He is a very good source of information, Max Judas has not been of any help to me. Other surviving members of his crew are: Elwood Brotzman, 34642 SW 188th Way, Homestead, FL 33034
James O. Cummings, 2136 Ridgewood Way S, Bountiful, UT 84010
Gerald Stroud, 167 Jackson Ave, Mayflower, AR 72106
Cummings was the navigator, and I would think you stood a better chance of getting information from Brotzman or Stroud.

I am enclosing a copy of the Missing Air Crew Report just for your record. I also found your father's name on orders issued in 1942 that put him on his way to England. I would suggest that you might write to Harry F. Civils, whose name appears three below your father's. He is a nice person who will answer your letter, although he may not have any information. Tell him that I suggested you contact him.

What this first indicates is that he was not a combat trained gunner when he went to England.

The page dated 1 November shows that your father had been put on a combat crew, was now a corporal, and by the time he was shot down was a technical sergeant. (Thinking as I am writing, I'll have to search for more promotions!)

I have found several more pages that show dates of promotions for your father, and also finally found mention of him as a radio operator, which had not been indicated earlier, rather identifying him as an aerial gunner.

Harry Civils address is 910 Roseanne Dr., Kinston, NC 28501

I would like to hear from you again, and to learn how you are coming with your project.

Sincerely yours,